LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 14, 1997/Shravana 23, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Sir, before going into the Question Hour, I want to say something about an item which has been listed.

MR. SPEAKER : Just a moment. We are not going to take up Questions just now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I am just drawing your attention.

MR. SPEAKER : Not now.

WELCOME TO THE RT. HON'BLE MS. BETTY BOOTHROYD, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement. I am delighted to inform that we have with us in the House today Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd, Speaker of House of Commons. She has come here on the invitation of the Parliament of India as our honoured guest to participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebration of our Independence.

She brings to us the felicitations and the tributes of the British people on the success of our Parliamentary democracy. She has visited India on earlier occasions as well. In 1994, she was with us in the Central Hall of Parliament to deliver Govind Vallabh Pant Memorial Lecture. She is immensely aware of our style of democracy to respect for dissent.

Her constituency in West Bromwich, about 10 per cent of which is comprised of voters from our Sub-Continent. In this sense, she represents people of all origins as well. She had had nearly quarter of a century of experience with her constituency having been returned for the first time in 1973. She is reputed for her qualities of wit and wisdom, discipline and dacorum, fairness impartiality. She is also an artist by her own right.

She will grace the forthcoming midnight function in the Central Hall of Parliament which would mark the commencement of our year-long celebration of the Golden Jubilee of our Independence.

Let us, hon. Members, warmly welcome Rt. Hon. Ms. Betty Boothroyd for the hearty occasion.

11.03 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform The House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues, Shri C. Ramasamy Mudaliar.

Shri C. Ramasamy Mudaliar was a Member of the First Lok Sabha representing Kumbakonan Parliamentary constituency of erstwhile Madras State.

Earlier, he was Vice-Chairman, Municipal Council, Kumbakonan during 1939-47.

A businessman by profession, Shri Mudaliar was an active social worker. He worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden.

Shri Mudaliar passed away on 9 July, 1997 at Kumbakonan at the age of 92 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

As the Members are aware, more than 125 persons have met with untimely death and there has been great loss of property on account of inclemant weather and flash floods in Shimla and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh. We deeply mourn this tragedy.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.04 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, let the hon. Speaker of the House of Commons appreciate the kind of generosity that you are capable of.

I am referring to Item No. 21. The introduction was made yesterday by Shri P. Chidambaram in respect of Income-Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1997. We have not been given sufficient time to study this Bill.

I, therefore, request you to kindly consider whether this can be shifted to the next Session of the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : I will discuss it with the Government.